GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5073
ANSWERED ON:05.04.2017
Development Projects in Bhutan and Bangladesh
Gandhi Shri Feroze Varun

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is funding/supporting any infrastructure development projects in Bhutan and Bangladesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Indian strategic investments in the region are comparable to the investments made by China and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of the steps being taken/planned by the Government to sustain and enhance bilateral infrastructure development co-operation with the above mentioned countries?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) Yes.

(b) GOI has committed assistance of Rs. 4500 crores for the 11th Five Year Plan of Bhutan (2013-18). Out of this, Rs. 2800 crores is earmarked for Project Tied Assistance for funding infrastructure development projects such as development of roads & bridges, construction of regional hospitals, schools, and covering sectors like energy, industries, agriculture, e-governance. GOI is also assisting in hydro power development in Bhutan with four ongoing projects- 1200 MW Punatsangchhu-I, 1020 MW Punatsangchhu-II, 720 MW Mangdechhu and 600 MW Kholongchhu Hydroelectric Projects.
In 2011, India extended first Line of Credit (LoC) of US$ 1 billion to Bangladesh, which was used for projects mainly in infrastructure developments projects in field of railways and public transport. The second LoC of US $ 2 billion to Bangladesh, was announced in June 2015 during PM's visit to Bangladesh. This is being used for infrastructure developments projects mainly in field of Power, Railways, Road Transport, ICT, Shipping, Health and Technical Education.

(c) & (d) India's investments and development projects are based on the priorities of India & country concerned and these stand firmly on their own, and cannot be compared to investments of any other country, including China, in these countries. India will continue to undertake infrastructure development projects in consultations with countries concerned and deepen our partnership further for mutual benefit.